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CAREER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Working Group on Honor Awards

Minutes of 6th Meeting, 25 June 1952, 2:00 p.m.

Present:

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1. Messrs. [redacted] were not able to attend the sixth meeting. [redacted] represented [redacted]. Minutes of the fifth meeting held on 16 June were accepted by the Working Group.

2. [redacted] presented a statement setting forth the I & S viewpoint in respect to wearing a lapel button to denote possession of a long service award. This included a number of reasons why I & S deems the use of a lapel button insecure. The Working Group analysis of these reasons follows. Those portions in quotation marks are the I & S statements; the Working Group comment follows in each case.

a. "Security-wise they will serve no useful purpose."

(1) Under no circumstances is it argued that lapel buttons would serve a security purpose. The Working Group recommendation is based on its belief in their positive morale value.

b. "The wearing of a distinguishing device is contrary to a basic security policy of the Agency in that it advertises the CIA connection instead of limiting such information as much as practicable."

(1) It was agreed by the Working Group that the lapel button would neither identify CIA by name or insignia, nor identify even the fact that it was intelligence which was involved. The Group agrees that such a lapel button should be of a design as to be distinguishable to other employees of CIA; it would carry appropriate devices to indicate the years of service for which it was awarded; it would be designed to ensure that it did not "advertise" the CIA connection.

(2) The I & S argument is presumed to mean that other practices and procedures of the Agency do not "advertise" CIA connection. As a matter of fact, anyone who opens a charge account or buys a house or automobile for anything less than cash is identified with CIA. It is logical to presume that penetration of the local credit bureau would be a more profitable operation for identification of CIA employees than one

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designed to identify everyone wearing a given lapel button. It probably is the case that the majority of CIA employees in Washington already have been identified through the credit services, as far as those are concerned to whom such identification is detrimental to the National interest. Identification through the use of lapel buttons to the average neighbor or social acquaintance is much less serious than identification to those who are in a position to establish such information regardless of the wearing of a lapel button.

c. "Insignia openly identifying individuals with CIA may restrict their future assignments."

(1) The Working Group assumes that this comment is based on the belief that an overt employee of this Agency can go under cover with absolute security. We believe that once an employee is identified with CIA by a foreign intelligence service, he will always be so identified regardless of the subterfuges adopted to negate Agency affiliation.

d. "From the standpoint of morale, covert personnel, many of whom may have served long and well, would be denied the privilege allowed open employees."

(1) Under no circumstances would the Working Group suggest that covert personnel would wear the button, even as they do not carry the building pass. It is the position of the Working Group that the value of a longevity award reposes in its identifying long-service employees to colleagues in the Agency. Hence, no morale purpose would be served in giving a covert employee, while covert, a lapel button. When he came out of cover, however, and took a regular position in the Agency, he could and would wear the identifying button.

(2) The purpose and value of a longevity award is the development of a sense of belongingness or identification with the group and the fostering of the career concept. A covert employee, is denied this kind of identification while in a covert status.

e. "The wearing of insignia would require the revision of a number of security policies now in effect, such as CIA employees designating their employment as U. S. Government for income tax purposes, when testifying in court, or when on private foreign travel."

(1) We fail to see any connection between a longevity award and an income tax return. As to testifying in court, our employees, in response to a direct question, must identify themselves as CIA employees. If they are able to "get away" with a sworn testimony that they work for the U. S. Government without identifying the Agency, then certainly in the casual social situation the same sort

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of story could be given to identify a longevity award. As for foreign travel, the employee would be expected to leave his longevity button behind just as he does his building pass, since the Agency nonidentification policy is a passive one rather than an actively negative one.

f. "The interests of the Agency can best be served by officers serving in a spirit of anonymity whenever possible. This is the basis on which all efficient intelligence operations are conducted."

(1) With the essential intent of this argument we cannot take exception. However, in view of the fact that many CIA employees are readily identified (for the foreign intelligence service), it seems illogical to argue that the wearing of the longevity lapel button is in violation of the spirit of anonymity. The principle of anonymity is appropriately applied to intelligence operations as such, but the majority of the employees of this Agency are not involved in "intelligence operations."

g. In conclusion, although the basis of this does not appear in the paper presented by I & S, we observe that the representative of I & S said that his office does not take security exception to the wearing of a lapel button given as part of a honor award. This leads the Working Group to believe that the I & S objections are based on degree rather than principle.

3. As a result of a discussion with Col. White and [] on 18 June during which the subject of valor awards was again raised, the Working Group reconsidered this subject. In the minutes of the first meeting held on 26 May the Working Group expressed itself as agreeing that "A valor award was not called for and that up to 90% of Agency personnel would not have opportunity to qualify for such an award. It was agreed that awards finally recommended should be available for both achievement and valor." Interest shown by other officers of the Agency in the creation of a valor award led the Working Group to a lengthy discussion of this matter. The opinion held by several members of the Group is that CIA's basic mission is not one that calls for the performance of valorous acts; hence, there is no requirement for the creation of a separate valor award. Other members of the Group held to the view that CIA missions sometimes call for bravery in their execution and that since different personal qualities are displayed in the performance of a valorous act than in the performance of outstanding service, a separate award for valor should be established within CIA. [] presented the following motion:

"It is moved that no separate device or medal be established by CIA to distinguish valorous service from other outstanding service."

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In the succeeding vote, three members of the Working Group agreed with [redacted] motion, while two opposed it. It was moved by [redacted] that the Chairman determine the position of [redacted] and record their votes before preparing a final recommendation for the Career Service Committee. This motion was accepted.

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4. The Group adjourned at 1600 and will meet again at 1100, 10 July 1952 in 1058 "I" Building. Final recommendations for the Career Service Committee in respect to Honor and Long Service awards will be drafted.

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